Raj would also service the Council of Panchayati Raj Ministers. The Committee of Secretaries has held seven meetings. The Council of Ministers has been convened twice, at Kochi, Kerala in August, 2005 and at Bhubaneshwar, Orissa in June, 2006, respectively.

(b) State-wise details may be found in Vol. II of the Report.

(c) No, Sir. The Constitution vests the responsibility for Panchayati Raj in State Governments and it is the Ministry's intention to work with State Governments towards ensuring conformity with the Constitutional provisions in both letter and spirit.

(d) Does not arise.

**Training in Panchayati Raj**

2637. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has felt the need for more funds for capacity building and training in Panchayati Raj;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has ever contemplated to get funds from United Nations Development Fund or the World Bank;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Considering the number of elected representatives of Panchayti Raj Institutions in the country which are over 2.8 million, there is an urgent need for more funds for Capacity Building and Training of these representatives. The Ministry has formulated a National Capability Building Framework for providing face-to-face and satellite-based training. The Ministry is in the process of consultation with the Planning Commission for getting more plan funds during the remaining period of the 11th Five Year Plan as also with United Nations Development Fund for getting external assistance for implementation of certain components of the framework. Preliminary contacts with the World Bank have been established but these are still to take a formal shape.